

Applicant: Jorma Laapotti
Application No.: 10/031,658
Art Unit: 1731

Remarks

Claims 24–54 remain pending in the application. In the Office Action dated August 26, 2003, claims 24–37 were allowed, and claim 53 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The specification was objected to for new matter where it incorporated by reference the priority applications. Claims 48 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and claims 38–51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over the disclosure of Justus. Claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the disclosure of Justus.

The specification has been amended as required by the examiner to overcome the new matter rejection. Claim 48 has been amended to address the § 112 rejection.

The term “the cc distance” which was objected to in claim 54, is a term well known to those skilled in the art to mean “center to center distance.” See, for example, p. 6 of the April 2002 issue of *AMEA [Association of Machinery and Equipment Appraisers] APPRAISER*, which accompanies this paper. The full issue may be found at <http://www.amea.org/newsletters/april2002.pdf>.

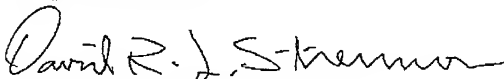
Claim 38 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 52 (except that the term “holes” has been deleted), and moreover to include a limitation taken from claim 54 that the width of the grooves is about 0.5 mm. It is noted that the limitation that the grooves “together have a volume per square metre of envelope surface of 0.7–1.8 dm³” is a structural limitation entitled to patentable weight, because it is a structural feature of the quantity of groove volume in the claimed open press rolls.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Describing CNC Machinery for an Appraisal Report

by Jack E. Mendenhall, CEA



There are many factors taken into consideration when describing Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Machine Tools in an appraisal. I will address three types of machines most of us encounter during the course of an appraisal, CNC Horizontal Lathes, CNC Vertical Machining Centers, and CNC Horizontal Machining Centers. In my reports, I include: manufacturer, model no., serial no., CNC control, age of the machine, brief specifications, attachments or accessories, and/or features or accessories I have deemed to have an impact on the value definition(s) being used.

There are generally two styles of CNC Lathes encountered during an appraisal: "Lathes, Combination CNC" (equipped with a tailstock) and "Lathes, Chucking, CNC" (without a tailstock). Also consider the number of spindles, number of axes (2,3,4 or more), capabilities such as live tooling and Robotic Loading systems, accessories such as Bar Feeds can also be included or listed separately, depending on the purpose of your appraisal. A description may read as follows:

1- Used Mori Seiki Model SL25A/500 2 Axis Combination CNC Lathe, Serial No. 1234 (New 1992), 8" Chuck Size, 20.5" Swing Over Bed, 21.7" Maximum Center Distance, 9.3" X Axis Travel, 21.7" Z Axis Travel, 2.4" Hole Through Spindle, 42-4200 RPM Spindle Speeds, 12 Station Tool Turret, 8" Kingway 3 Jaw Hydraulic Chuck, Programmable Tailstock, Tool Presetter, Chip Conveyor, Fanuc 11T CNC Control, 20 HP Motor & Controls
FAIR MARKET VALUE: \$ 35,000

Vertical CNC Machining Centers will generally fall into one style with a few variations, for instance twin spindle vs. single spindle, or a palletized machine vs. non palletized. Further, the machine you are describing could be considered a "DRILLING & TAPPING MACHINE, CNC" or "MACHINING CENTER, VERTICAL, GRAPHITE". Careful consideration should be given to placing the subject item within the proper category of your appraisal. I have always utilized the Uniform Machinery Classification Code, (UMCC), Categories found in the *Locator* as my guide for categorization purposes. A description may read as follows:

1- Used Matsuura Model RA1 CNC Vertical Machining Center, Serial No. 3678 (New 1989), (2) 14.9" x 23.6" Pallet Shuttle Table Areas, 20" X Axis Travel, 15.7" Y

Axis Travel, 18.1" Z Axis Travel, 150 - 10,000 RPM Spindle Speeds, #35 Taper In Spindle, 20 Station "S" Arm Style Automatic Tool Changing Magazine, Tsudakoma Full 4th Axis Rotary Table, Spindle Chiller, Full Enclosure, Pallet Shuttle Table, Yasnac MX3 CNC Control, 7 HP Motor & Controls

FAIR MARKET VALUE: \$ 30,000

Horizontal Machining Centers may be the most difficult machine to properly describe within the CNC Category. Features and characteristics that may have a tremendous impact on value such as rotary function (1 degree vs. 5 degree vs. full 4th axis) of the table and coolant through the spindle (vs. flood or through tool coolant) can be difficult or impossible to detect. Careful consideration should be given to obtaining subtle factors such as these from reliable sources such as plant personnel, the distributor, or the builder of the machine. A description may read as follows:

1- Used Makino Model A55 Delta CNC Horizontal Machining Center, Serial No. M234 (New 1997), (2) 15.7" Rotary Pallet Shuttle System, 22" X Axis Travel, 22" Y Axis Travel, 22" Z Axis Travel, 14,000 RPM Maximum Spindle Speed, CAT #40 Taper In Spindle, 40 Station Automatic Tool Changing Magazine, Full 4th Axis Rotary Function On Pallets, Coolant Through Spindle Coolant System, Full Enclosure, Spindle Chiller, Chip Conveyor, Makino (Fanuc 16M) Professional 3 CNC Control, 25 HP Motor & Controls

FAIR MARKET VALUE: \$140,000

Avoid using abbreviations in your descriptions. The individual reviewing your report may be someone not familiar with the machinery you are appraising. He or she may not be aware that "ATC" stands for "AUTOMATIC TOOL CHANGER" or "C.C. DISTANCE" stands for "CENTER TO CENTER DISTANCE". Limit your descriptions to designated items of importance such as model and serial numbers, dates of manufacture, specifications, and factors that will have an impact on value. I have seen items described in appraisals as "Complete With 9" CRT Screen, Touchpad, Hydraulic System, and Manual Pulse Generator". Instead of listing important factors such as Rotary Tables, Robotic Loaders, or Live Tooling. This would be the same as describing an automobile as "Complete With Steering Wheel, Doors, and Tires" while leaving out the Cruise Control, Air Conditioning, and Leather Interior. Always **INFORM** your customer. Do not try to **IMPRESS** someone in an appraisal report.

AMEA APPRAISER APRIL 2002